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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 5, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 31 totaled an estimated 19.6 billion ton-miles, 6.1 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 44 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 780.8 billion ton-miles carried, up 5.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended October 31 totaled 442,880, up 6.3 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 2.2 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 6.4 percent in the East and 6.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings increased by 9,742 cars (8.3 percent), while metallic ores showed a gain of 4,373 cars (27.4 percent). Loadings of metals and products were up 3,104 cars (39.6 percent), and coke increased by 2,285 cars (58.5 percent). Fifteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended October 24 totaled 106,653 trailers and/or containers, 1.7 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 43 weeks of the year was 4,240,301 trailers and/or containers, up 3.0 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/31/87:

	Loadings in Week ended October 31, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,772	D	3,388	9.9	D	1,596	4.9
Other farm products	4,005	D	1,680	29.6	D	496	11.0
Metallic ores	20,337	I	4,373	27.4	I	627	3.2
Coal	126,626	I	9,742	8.3	I	4,003	3.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	16,993	I	1,469	9.5	I	23	0.1
Nonmetallic minerals	8,784	D	37	0.4	D	1,169	11.7
Grain mill products	11,258	D	132	1.2	I	55	0.5
Food and kindred products	12,125	I	18	0.1	I	497	4.3
Primary forest products	10,046	D	912	8.3	D	476	4.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,705	I	505	6.2	I	864	11.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,904	D	843	6.6	I	670	6.0
Chemicals and allied products	26,002	I	1,036	4.1	I	595	2.3
Petroleum products	5,060	I	455	9.9	I	94	1.9
Stone, clay and glass products	11,411	I	692	6.5	D	252	2.2
Coke	6,192	I	2,285	58.5	I	690	12.5
Metals and products	10,947	I	3,104	39.6	I	1,257	13.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,019	I	623	2.9	I	277	1.3
Waste and scrap materials	10,079	I	1,955	24.1	I	281	2.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,254	D	159	4.7	I	98	3.1
All other carloads	86,361	I	7,153	9.0	I	3,514	4.2
Total Cars Loaded	442,880	I	26,259	6.3	I	9,556	2.2
Corresponding week of 1986	416,621						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (44 weeks)	17,588,045	16,826,398	I 4.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
43 Weeks ended October 24	761.2	724.0	I 5.1
Week ended October 31	19.6	18.5	I 6.1
44 Weeks cumulative	780.8	742.4	I 5.2

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